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MUNCIE TO WELCOME HUD SECRETARY MARTINEZ

Secretary Martinez, Congressman Pence and Mayor Canan to Kick Off Revitalization of Munsyana Pub.

Washington, Mar 17, 2003 - WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence, together with Muncie Mayor Dan Canan, will welcome U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Mel Martinez to Muncie Monday, March 31, 2003.

On March 4, Pence announced that the Munsyana Homes public housing development would receive a \$12.3 million housing grant from HUD to help revitalize the development.

"We are obviously excited about the HOPE VI award, and are looking forward to the ribbon cutting with Secretary Martinez, which will signal the beginning of a new economic incentive for the South end of Muncie," said Mayor Canan. "We appreciate the tireless work of all the grant application participants. Without the cooperation and efforts of Armonics, the Muncie Housing Authority, Community Development, and the other city departments, as well as the network of public service providers, this would not have been possible.

"We particularly want to thank Congressman Mike Pence, who has been the 'point on our spear' in advancing our case to HUD and staying abreast of our status in this process. We owe him a great debt, and are glad he is with us as we begin the creation of a new neighborhood," said Canan.

"Secretary Martinez's visit to Muncie shows how important this development is to our community. This is a tremendous victory for Mayor Canan and the citizens of Muncie and Delaware County," said Pence.

Pence added, "It is with this kind of continuing teamwork that Mayor Canan's vision for a revitalized Muncie with come to reality."

The following is the schedule for Secretary Martinez while he is in Muncie:

Monday, March 31

1:30 p.m. Ribbon cutting and ground breaking ceremony

Munsyana Housing Development

2-2:30 p.m. Press Conference with Secretary Martinez, Congressman Pence and Mayor Canan

Munsyana Housing Development

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